United Nations S/2004/799

Security Council

Distr.: General
6 October 2004

Original: English

Letter dated 6 October 2004 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey to you the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 1 to 31 August 2004 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have this report brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

04-53962 (E) 071004

Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on Kosovo Force operations

1. This report covers the period from 1 to 31 August 2004.

2. As of 31 August 2004, the total number of troops in theatre was 17,728, including 3,068 troops from non-NATO countries.

3. There was no change of status of Partner/non-NATO country contributions.

Security

4. The general situation in Kosovo, though apparently calm, remains fragile and tense and is expected to remain so for the foreseeable future.

5. There was a noticeable increase in ethnically motivated violence during the month, although it is assessed that this is largely attributable to seasonal factors. Of 15 incidents reported, four were related to the reopening of the Austerlitz Bridge in Mitrovica, which is a well-known hot spot.

6. The threat against the Kosovo Force (KFOR) remained relatively low throughout the month.

7. A total of 39 incidents related to drugs, weapons and smuggling activity were reported during August 2004. This is 34 per cent fewer than in July. Drugs, smuggling and counterfeit currency related events are decreasing significantly, while the number of illegal weapons finds remains rather consistent.

8. The operational rehearsal for reserve forces in the Balkan joint area of operations, "Determined Commitment 2004", will take place from 11 October to 6 November 2004 in Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The rehearsal is timed to have the maximum impact during the elections in Kosovo on 23 October and in preparation for the NATO-European Union transition in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

9. KFOR continues operations to secure the theatre, to avoid ethnic violence and to protect patrimonial sites. KFOR remains vigilant to deter possible threats directed against international organizations and military bases. The NATO force continues to improve its crowd and riot control capabilities in order to be better prepared to counter a resurgence of violence.

Compliance by the Serbia and Montenegro army and the Ministry of Internal Affairs special police

10. No breaches of the Military Technical Agreement were reported during August 2004.

Kosovo Protection Corps

11. The current membership of the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) is 2,978 active members, including 142 from minorities, of whom 32 are Serbs. The Reserve personnel establishment list includes 1,838 members, of whom 17 are from minorities. The results show a low rate of minorities in KPC. A concern is that there are not enough free positions in the Active personnel establishment list for minorities to fill in order for KPC to reach its 10 per cent minority goal.

12. During August 2004, the multinational brigades carried out 46 roll calls. The number of individuals on sick leave or other leave increased owing to the annual leave period and remains at an acceptable level.

13. Owing to the annual leave period, training activities have almost ceased.

Conclusion

14. In the lead-up to the elections, the potential exists for the type of "flashpoints" seen in March 2004. The reinforcement associated with Exercise "Determined Commitment 2004" will represent a valuable increase in the potential of the Commander of KFOR to react to any developing situations during this period.

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Security Council

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Letter dated 6 October 2004 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the Accra III Agreement on Côte d'Ivoire concluded on 30 July 2004 in Accra, to the statement by the President of the Security Council of 5 August 2004 (S/PRST/2004/29) and to my letters dated 16 August 2004 (S/2004/667), 3 September 2004 (S/2004/716) and 20 September 2004 (S/2004/748) concerning the monitoring of the Agreement.

Please find attached the fourth report of the Tripartite Monitoring Group established under the Accra III Agreement, covering the period from 15 to 30 September 2004 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

04-54258 (E) 151004

Annex

Implementation of the Accra III Agreement

Fourth report of the Monitoring Group

Covering 15 to 30 September 2004

I. Overview

1. The overall security and military situation is calm in spite of reports of growing tension in the West in particular between elements of Forces Nouvelles and Licorne. Political developments in the country have been marked mainly by the activities commemorating the second Anniversary of the 19 September 2002 crisis. All the leaders of the political parties and forces made pronouncements on the sad events of that day, some reflecting disappointment over what was considered as scant progress in the implementation of the Accra III Agreement, in particular over the passage of the essential legislative texts in the National Assembly by the 30 September 2004 deadline and the start-up of the DDR process scheduled for 15 October 2004. Significant among the commemorative events is the initiative on the "Corridors of Peace" which is intended ultimately to allow families separated by the conflict to reunite. At the initial stage, convoys carrying children travelled out of the government-controlled south to the Forces Nouvelles controlled north with safe conduct provided by ONUCI peacekeepers. Other related activities to foster confidence building included a friendly football tournament involving the National Armed Forces of Cote d'Ivoire (FANCI), the armed wing of the Forces Nouvelles (FAFN) and the Impartial forces (ONUCI and Licorne). All these activities are meant to promote a culture of peace in consonance with the commemoration of the International Day of peace on 21 September 2004.

2. There is overall an air of expectancy and some anxiety over what the National Assembly and the political protagonists plan to do to advance the implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis and Accra III Agreements. The Press Communiqué issued after the Security Council meeting of 27 September 2004 on Cote d'Ivoire, as annexed to this report, has unleashed differing interpretations over the obligations which fall on the various political actors.

II. Salient developments in the peace process

Proceedings in the National Assembly

3. The period under review coincided with the formal closure of the extraordinary session of the National Assembly (11August-28 September 2004). At the closing

ceremony, indications were given that proceedings on the relevant legislative texts would continue during the ensuing Ordinary Session of the National Assembly scheduled for the period 6 October to 17 December 2004. It is necessary, therefore, to give an overview of the status of progress in the passage of these legislative texts. The legislative reforms envisaged under the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement comprise some sixteen (16) texts. So far **seven** (7) have been adopted. They relate to:

1. Amnesty
2. Identification of persons and residence of foreign nationals in Cote d'Ivoire
3. Establishment, organisation and functions of the National Commission on Human Rights
4. Ratification of the protocol signed in Ouagadougou on 30 June 1989 concerning the free circulation of persons, the right of residence and settlement
5. Amendment to article 26 of the Land tenure regime
6. Disclosure of the personal assets of the Head of State
7. Public funding of political parties and groups and electoral campaigns

4. The proceedings on **two** (2) texts have been suspended and these have been withdrawn for further changes, at the request of the President of the Republic. They relate to:

1. Amendment to the Nationality Code
2. Composition, organisation and functions of the Independent Electoral Commission

5. **Six** (6) other texts are yet to be submitted to the National Assembly. They relate to:

1. Ratification of the protocol signed in Banjul on 29 May 1990 concerning the free circulation of persons, the right of residence and settlement
2. Regime governing the Press
3. Regime governing the radio and television media
4. Status of the opposition parties
5. Disclosure of personal assets of elected persons

6. Suppression of illegal personal enrichment

6. An updated synoptic table on the Status of progress of legislative texts envisaged under the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement is attached as enclosure 1.

Electoral process

7. The Partners Group meetings initiated by ONUCI with the participation of UNDP, EU, Francophonie and other potential donors (UK, Switzerland, France) have continued their consultations since 1 September 2004. The objective is to put in place a forum for discussing issues involved in the electoral process with a view to finding practical solutions, including adequate funding, for the conduct not only of the presidential elections of October 2005 but also of a possible referendum, given a correct reading of the constitutional implications of amending article 35. The consultations have ranged on identifying such salient issues as, inter alia, the composition and functions of the Independent Electoral Commission, the Nationality code, identification, electoral lists and the amendment to Article 35. A tentative and theoretical time-table for the electoral process is to be drawn up and reviewed subsequently. The timing of the second visit of the UN Electoral Assessment Mission is under active consultation with New York.

DDR

8. The Coordination Committee comprising CNDDR, other national stakeholders and development partners continue their consultations to review technical preparations for the launching of the DDR. At their latest meetings, CNDDR presented the work programme of its planning committee. A number of issues are worthy of mention:

- The Defence and Security Forces and the Forces Nouvelles are to provide the CNDDR with the estimates of their respective troop strengths. The Forces Nouvelles are to submit the number of foreign combatants in their ranks. The President of CNDDR announced that he was looking into the problem of identification during the regroupment of forces.
- CNDDR announced that they were recruiting and training 600 staff to help them launch the public awareness campaign throughout the country. Given the conflicting information, as well as misinformation, coming from the media, it was suggested that CNDDR should issue regular press releases on the DDR process. Radio ONUCI would also be available to assist in disseminating any messages and news of related developments, such as the recent withdrawals of heavy arms by both sides. Other partners also offered to provide communications support.

- Recruitment of staff is underway for the six demobilisation sites (three in the North and three in the South) which are being rehabilitated by UNDP. It has been indicated that 90% of the equipment for the demobilisation, which is being provided by UNDP, is already in the CNDDR warehouse.
- It has been noted that the security arrangements in the North during and following DDR still needs to be agreed.

9. The FAFN is claiming a total number of 41,000 combatants as its force strength. However, the final number will need to be verified. The President of CNDDR has alerted all concerned that the amount of money available for benefits is fixed and cannot be increased to meet numbers that far exceed those that were used for planning purposes. He has indicated that if the numbers are substantially in excess of the projections then, individual benefits will have to be reduced.

Confidence-building measures

- *Corridors of Peace*

10. The period from 19 to 22 September 2004 was dedicated to the culture of peace, national reconciliation and the commemoration of the International Day of Peace, through confidence-building activities initiated by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, ONUCI and other organizations of the UN system through the "Peace Corridors" Program and the friendly football tournament " Challenge of Hope" initiated by LICORNE and involving the members of the Quadripartite Commission (FANCI, FAFN, Impartial forces).

11. The official launching of the "Peace Corridors" program took place in Adjame, Abidjan on 19 September 2004. The program comprises three phases. **Phase I** concluded last week and also coincided with the 2nd Commemorative Week of the National Reconciliation Day and the UN International Day for Peace. It brought together some 160 school children (girls and boys from all ethnic and confessional groups, age 12-15) in Tiebissou (Zone of Confidence) to initiate dialogue among themselves and to serve as a demonstration in terms of confidence building and tearing down the wall of mistrust between parts of the country and segments of society. In Phase I, the children came from various parts of the country: Abidjan, Bouake, Yamoussoukro, and Tiebissou. Artists and musicians from Odienne and Abidjan attended the events and entertained the children. ONUCI and UN agencies (UNDP, OCHA, UNSECOORD, UNICEF, UNESCO) actively participated in the event, in partnership with the Government (Ministries of National Solidarity, Territorial

Administration, National Reconciliation, War victims) and NGOs (WANEP Réseau Régional de Construction de la Paix en Afrique de l'Ouest, Ecole pour Tous – EPT).

12. In addition to fostering an atmosphere of togetherness, through painting and other artistic activities, the children were given training in Children's Rights and Culture of Peace. They were symbolically nominated "Ambassadors for Peace".

13. **Phase II** (December 2004) will open up "corridors" in the West (Man-Guiglo), the Center (Bouake-Abidjan) and the East (Bouna-Bondoukou). **Phase III** (all through 2005) will open up various corridors to highlight recovery and development activities (by helping to reactivate the current dormant development projects portfolio of UN Agencies and some bilateral and multilateral donors).

14. To sustain the result of the initiative, activities will be followed up in creating a web link among the children who participated in the event, monitoring their behaviour in sharing the skills and lessons learnt within their communities, families, and schools.

15. The initiative carries valuable lessons, to further build on:

1. (a) The fact that the children were eager to embark on it, (b) that the parents agreed without reserve to endorse their children's participation, at very short (4 days) notice, and (c) the fact that all political and military authorities, from all sides, emphatically endorsed the initiative is a signal that there is a deep eagerness from all parties to reunite the country.

2. Many other actors have expressed requests to use the Peace Corridors Initiative as a platform to reunite other segments of society (e.g. the parliamentarians and their local constituencies, local business communities, IDPs, ...)

With the assistance of UNDP, an appropriate project document is being prepared to cover the programme under its second and third phases.

16. On the military side, the "Challenge of Hope football tournament" ended on 21 September 2004 in Yamoussoukro with a match between teams of FANCI and FAFN. FANCI won the "Corridor de la Paix" cup and the FAFN the second place cup and the fair play cup in recognition of their being the most disciplined team among the five competitors (FANCI, FAFN, ONUCI, ONUCI Civilian Police and Force LICORNE). The Minister of National Reconciliation, Sebastien Dano Djedje, the Chief of Staff of FANCI, Major-General Mathias Doue, the Chief of Staff of FAFN, Colonel Bakayoko attended the event along with members of the Monitoring Group of the Accra III

Agreement and members of the Monitoring Committee of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement. Their presence was well appreciated by all participants.

17. The celebration of the International Day of Peace on 21 September 2004 started in Tiebissou in the zone of confidence, bringing together elements of the Defence and Security Forces and the armed wing of the Forces Nouvelles, and children conveyed to this town by the "Corridors de la Paix" program. Members of the Government of Cote d'Ivoire, the National Assembly and Authorities of FANCI and FAFN attended the ceremonies.

Extension and redeployment of administration

18. The Government's programme for the redeployment of the administration comes under the purview of a unit in the office of the Prime Minister designated *Comité national de pilotage du redéploiement de l'administration* (CNPRA – National pilot Committee for the redeployment of the administration). The coordinator is Mr. Hubert Oulaye, Minister of State, and Minister for the Public service. The Prime Minister has been on a recent mission to raise additional external funding to assist the Government in implementing this programme. Activities have gathered momentum as the impending school year approaches, the Government has mobilised large quantities of items and equipment for the educational institutions and health clinics. Responsibility for this rests with the Ministries of Education, Public service and Health among others. So far the operations cover education and health institutions in the areas of urgent need in the northern and western sectors such as Bin-Houye, Taï, Toulepleu, Bangolo, Zouan-Hounien, Blolequin, Guiglo and Duekoue.

19. As a further boost to this programme, it is significant to note that Mr. Yussuf Soumahoro, the Minister of Technical Education and Vocational Training, has given assurances to all those who will be involved in the transfers and the relocations to the educational institutions and public services in the zones under the control of the Forces Nouvelles. He declared that as a member of the Government and a member of the Forces Nouvelles, he would give assurances to all functionaries to return to their posts with a sense of security.

III. Human rights developments

20. As previously indicated, the International Commission of Inquiry (ICI) did not meet with certain key leaders of the Forces Nouvelles during its mission in Cote d'Ivoire. These include Mr. Guillaume Soro, Secretary General of the MPCI and Minister of Communication, Mr. Roger Banchi, Minister of Small and Medium-size Businesses and member of the *Mouvement Populaire Ivoirien du Grand-Ouest*

(MPIGO), Colonel Michel Guei, Minister of Sport and former Commander-in-Chief of Operations of MPCI, Mr. Tuo Fozie, Minister of Youth and Civic Service, and Mr. Kone Zakaria of the *Mouvement pour la Justice et la Paix* (MJP).

21. The Minister of Human Rights who had formally objected to the appointment of three members of the ICI prior to the latter's arrival in Cote d'Ivoire to commence its inquiry subsequently refused to meet with the members of the ICI during their visit to Cote d'Ivoire.

22. In a meeting with the ICI, the Coordinating Committee set up by the President of the Republic stressed the fact that the ICI had failed to meet with certain key leaders of the Forces Nouvelles who allegedly were responsible for certain gross human rights violations in Cote d'Ivoire.

23. Regarding the two Parliamentary Commissions of Inquiry (PCI) established to investigate, respectively the events of 19 September 2002 and those of 25-26 March 2004, there is not enough information, at this stage, to enable a fair assessment of their work and progress achieved so far.

IV. Conclusion

24. In the light of the stalemate in the proceedings of the National Assembly and the trend of political debate over issues relating to the implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis and Accra III Agreements, the Monitoring Group would reiterate the recommendations contained in its third report, namely: (i) consultations with President Gbagbo and other political stakeholders to ascertain the difficulties facing them vis-à-vis the passage of the relevant legal reforms; (ii) consultations among the four major Ivorian political leaders under the facilitation of ECOWAS and the African Union, to secure a politically acceptable and expedient solution to the controversy surrounding Article 35 and its applicability to the 2005 presidential election. In this regard, President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah of Sierra Leone arrived today on a visit expected to last several days. He came with the blessing of his sub-regional peers to add weight to the push to break the impasse threatening the Accra III Agreement. The next few days will enable an assessment of the result of his intervention.

On behalf of the Group
Raph **Uwechue**
Chairman

Abidjan, 30 September 2004

Enclosure 1

[Original: English and French]

SYNOPTIC TABLE

STATUS OF PROGRESS OF LEGISLATIVE TEXTS ENVISAGED UNDER THE LINAS-MARCOUSSIS AGREEMENT

Legislation	Adopted by the Government	Submitted to the National Assembly	Adopted in Committee of Assembly	Passed by the National Assembly	Promulgated
1) Legislation on the amendment to Article 35 of the Constitution	Yes	No	No	No	No
2) Legislation on the Ivorian Nationality Code as amended by Law No 72-852 of 21 December 1972	Yes	Yes[a]	No	No	No
3) Legislation on the amendment to article 26 of the Land tenure regime	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes on 28/07/04	No
4) Legislation on the establishment, organization and functions of the National Human Rights Commission	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes on 23/04/04	Yes on 03/05/04
5) Legislation relating to the disclosure of the personal assets of the Head of State	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes on 28/07/04	No
6) Legislation on the public funding of political parties and groups and electoral campaigns	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes on 09/09/04	No
7) Legislation authorising the President of the Republic to ratify the additional protocol A/SP1/6/89 amending and completing the provisions of article VII of the protocol, signed in Ouagadougou on 30 June 1989, concerning the free circulation of persons, the right of residence and settlement.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes on 27/07/04	No

[a] The President of the Republic has, by letter, requested the National Assembly to temporarily remove from its agenda the draft text of legislation on the Nationality Code.

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Legislation	Adopted by the Government	Submitted to the National Assembly	Adopted in Committee of Assembly	Passed by the National Assembly	Promulgated
8) Legislation authorising the President of the Republic to ratify the additional protocol A/SP2/5/90 relating to the implementation of the third step (right of settlement) of the protocol concerning the free circulation of persons, the right of residence and settlement signed in Banjul on 29 May 1990	Yes	Yes	Yes	No[a]	No
9) Legislation on Amnesty	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes on 06/08/03	Yes On 08/08/03
10) Legislation on Identification of persons and Residence of foreign nationals in Cote d'Ivoire	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes on 23/04/04	No
11) Legislation on the composition, organization and functions of the Independent Electoral Commission	Yes	Yes	No Suspended on 26/08/04	No	No
12) Legislation on the regime governing the Radio and Television media	Yes	No	No	No	No
13) Legislation on the regime governing the Press	Yes	No	No	No	No
14) Legislation on the status of the opposition parties	No	No	No	No	No
15) Legislation on the disclosure of the personal assets of elected persons	No	No	No	No	No
16) Legislation on suppression of illegal personal enrichment	No	No	No	No	No

[a] Postponed pending additional information to be provided by the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

DECREES

Draft decree	Adopted by the Government
1) Decree on the establishment, organization, functions of the National Identification Commission	Yes on 6 January 2004
2) Decree on the acquisition and format of the National identity card	Yes on 7 January 2004
3) Decree relating to the amendment of the decree on the establishment of the National Identification Office	Yes in January 2004
4) Decree relating to the appointment of the Chairman of the National Identification Commission	Yes on 29 January 2004
5) Decree relating to the appointment of the Secretary General of the National Identification Commission	Yes on 29 January 2004
6) Decree relating to the establishment of the Inter-ministerial Commission on the Media and its technical Secretariat	Yes on 19 August 2003

Enclosure 2

[Original: English and French]

COTE D'IVOIRE – SECURITY COUNCIL PRESS STATEMENT

New York, 27 September 2004. --- The members of the Security Council heard this morning a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Albert TEVOEDJRE. The Security Council expressed its support for the efforts of the SRSG to bring peace and stability to Côte d'Ivoire.

The members of the Council took note with satisfaction of the resumption of the activities of the government of national reconciliation in accordance with the commitments taken during the Accra III Summit of 30 July 2004.

However, the members of the Council expressed concern over the lack of progress in key sectors of the national reconciliation process in Côte d'Ivoire, just before the deadlines agreed in Accra III The members of the Council underlined that this lack of progress is not only holding back the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire, but is also detrimental to further progress in the sub-region as a whole.

The members of the Council exhorted in particular President Laurent GBAGBO to do everything in his power to ensure the revision of article 35 of the constitution as he committed himself in Accra. They also exhorted the Forces Nouvelles to start as soon as possible before 15 October and without preconditions the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration process to which they committed themselves in Accra. They stressed that all paramilitary and militia groups must also be disarmed. They exhorted Ivorian members of parliament to accelerate consideration of legislative reforms in the National Assembly with a view to their adoption before the end of this month, in particular the law on the independent electoral commission.

The members of the Council condemned the attacks against ONUCI personnel and stated that those responsible for these attacks should be held accountable.

The members of the Council expressed grave concern for the human rights situation in the country looked forward to the upcoming report of the international commission of inquiry.

The members of the Council recalled in the strongest terms that open, free and fair elections before November 2005, in accordance with the Ivorian Constitution, is the only possible solution to a peaceful settlement of the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire.

United Nations A/ES-10/286–S/2004/801

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Fifty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 7 October 2004 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

The bloodletting in the Occupied Palestinian Territory persists as Israel, the occupying Power, continues to commit war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations against the Palestinian people. In absolute disregard for the international outcry and in grave breach of international law, the occupying Power continues to order its forces to launch violent military attacks against the Palestinian population in the Northern Gaza Strip area. Scores more of Palestinian civilians, including innocent and defenceless children, continue to be killed, maimed and wounded by the Israeli occupying forces as a result of the continued, deliberate use of excessive, indiscriminate and lethal force against the civilian population.

Since my last letter to you three days ago, 22 more Palestinians have been killed by the occupying forces. Children are being killed, fathers and sons are being killed, homes are being demolished, and families and lives are being destroyed as the occupying Power continues on its rampage through the Gaza Strip. Just this morning, the Israeli occupying forces killed two 15 year-old Palestinian boys, Ra'ed Ziyad Abu Zeid and Sulieman Al-Abed Abu Fuol, who were walking to their school in Beit Lahiya when hit by tank shelling. The killing of these boys raises the total number of Palestinian children killed by Israel, the occupying Power, in the period of only one week to **26 children**, providing yet further proof of Israel's blatant and cruel disregard for the lives of the civilian population.

Among the many others killed in the past few days have also been two young Palestinian girls. Islam Maher Dweidar, age 16, was killed by a bullet to the head as she baked bread with her mother in the yard of her home in Jabaliya on Monday, 4 October. Her killing was followed by the brutal killing of Iman Samir Al-Hams, aged 13, who was shot to death by the Israeli occupying forces as she walked to school on Tuesday, 5 October, in the Rafah area. The girl, wearing her school uniform and carrying her backpack, was walking to the school with two of her classmates. When shots were fired, Iman tried to run away but was gunned down by the occupying forces. Her body was left on the ground for nearly two hours until the

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occupying forces allowed access to Palestinian rescue workers, who found her body riddled with 20 bullets. In yet another attack, a father and son, Hamdan Baraka Obeid, aged 50, and Hamoudeh Hamdan Baraka Obeid, aged 20, were killed yesterday while they were sleeping in their home when the Israeli occupying forces fired tank shells in the area, which hit their house. Eight other family members, including several small children, ranging in ages from 6 months to 12 years, were also wounded in that attack. These human tragedies are only a few of examples of the dozens of civilian casualties caused by the military attacks that the Israeli Army Chief of Staff, Moshe Yaalon, deems a "success" and declares will continue.

In addition, the occupying Power continues to commit all other illegal practices, including extrajudicial killings, arrests and home demolitions, throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory. In this regard, claiming to be targeting "militants" for death, the Israeli occupying forces fired a missile at a car travelling in the Shati refugee camp near Gaza City on Tuesday, killing two Palestinian men. This was followed by a helicopter missile strike in the Jabaliya refugee camp that killed another three Palestinian men and wounded at least seven other people.

The harrowing images emanating from the Jabaliya refugee camp and the Beit Hanoun area in recent days are graphic illustrations of the horror, suffering and hardship being wrought by the Israeli occupying forces upon the Palestinian people, who, despite the pleas for help, have once again been left at the mercy of the occupying Power and without the protection of international humanitarian law. Official Israeli declarations, including by the Prime Minister himself, that military attacks in the area will continue to be stepped up, promise to inflict yet more grief, devastation and turmoil on the defenceless Palestinian civilian population, hundreds of whom are fleeing their homes in a desperate search for safety.

Undoubtedly, the failure of the Security Council two days ago — due once again to the veto of a permanent member — to demand an immediate cessation of all military operations in the Northern Gaza Strip area and the withdrawal of the occupying forces from the area, has allowed Israel, the occupying Power, to continue to act with impunity, in total disregard for international law, including international humanitarian law, while it continues to pursue its savage military campaign against the Palestinian people. The Council's paralysis and the inaction of the international community can only lead to greater loss of human life and more destruction throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, as Israel continues to believe that it can act without restraint against the Palestinian people under its brutal occupation, never to be held accountable for its grave transgressions of the law.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 204 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 4 October 2004 (A/ES-10/284-S/2004/782) constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, it is my regret to inform you that, since my last letter to you, at least 22 more Palestinians, including children, have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces, raising the total number

of martyrs killed since September 2000 to 3,365. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified are listed in the annex to the present letter.)

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nasser **Al-Kidwa**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 7 October 2004 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem* (Monday, 4 October 2004, to Thursday, 7 October 2004)

Monday, 4 October 2004

1. Islam Maher Dweidar (16 years old)
2. Luay Ayman Al-Najjar (4 years old)

Tuesday, 5 October 2004

1. Iman Samir Al-Hams (13 years old)
2. Fawaz Mohammed Farhan
3. Ibrahim Tawabkeh
4. Musa Mohammed Hamed Al-Jibari
5. Wafi Salem Eiseleh
6. Abdallah Nadi Dardouneh
7. Saeed Jamal Al-Majdalawi
8. Husam Mohammed Al-Ras
9. Musa Abdelhai Darwish
10. Hassan Abdelhai Darwish

Wednesday, 6 October 2004

1. Hamdan Baraka Obeid
2. Hamoudeh Hamdan Baraka Obeid
3. Abdallah Hussein Yousef Qahman (18 years old)
4. Mohammed Basem Rushdi Radad (17 years old)
5. Rami Muheisen
6. Eyad Sayed Abu Al-Atta
7. Ali Khaled Al-Jarou

Thursday, 7 October 2004

1. Ra'ed Ziyad Abu Zeid (15 years old)
2. Sulieman Al-Abed Abu Fuol (15 years old)
3. Mohammed Touhami Abu Seif (16 years old)

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* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 3,365.

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Security Council

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8 October 2004

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Letter dated 23 September 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 17 September 2004 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union on the peace process between Ethiopia and Eritrea (see annex). I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dirk Jan **van den Berg**
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 23 September 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement issued on 17 September 2004 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union on the peace process between Ethiopia and Eritrea

The European Union reaffirms its full support for the peace process between Ethiopia and Eritrea and expresses its concern about the continuing stalemate. Both Ethiopia and Eritrea need peace and stability to focus on the serious challenges facing their countries, and the EU urges both countries to take a more constructive stand.

The EU recognizes that in the current situation, the continued presence of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) is essential for stability in the region, and welcomes United Nations resolution 1560 (2004), extending the UNMEE mandate for a further six months. The EU fully supports the proposed rationalization of the mission and has full confidence that the Secretary-General of the United Nations will ensure that UNMEE will maintain its current level of effectiveness.

The EU calls upon both countries to use the coming six months to implement measures which may help to break the current deadlock and allow demarcation to proceed expeditiously. The EU urges Ethiopia to abide by the Boundary Commission's decision as agreed in the Algiers Peace Agreement and to fully cooperate with the Boundary Commission in the implementation of the decision.

The EU reiterates its full support for the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General, his Special Representative Legwaila and his Special Envoy Axworthy, and calls on Eritrea to engage with the Secretary-General's Special Envoy in a constructive manner.

The candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and Croatia,[a] the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, and the EFTA countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

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[a] Croatia continues to be part of the Stabilization and Association Process.

United Nations S/2004/803

Security Council

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Letter dated 23 September 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 23 September 2004 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union concerning the adoption of Security Council resolution 1564 (2004) on the Sudan (see annex). I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dirk Jan **van den Berg**
Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations

04-54433 (E) 111004

Annex to the letter dated 23 September 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement issued on 23 September 2004 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union concerning the adoption of Security Council resolution 1564 (2004) on the Sudan

The European Union (EU) welcomes the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 1564 (2004).

Resolution 1564 (2004) is an important contribution to the urgently required increased pressure on the Government of Sudan, the Justice and Equality Movement, the Sudanese Liberation Army/Movement and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement to reach a political solution to the conflicts in Sudan as a matter of immediate priority.

The European Union fully supports the appeal made by the Security Council on the Government of Sudan to meet its obligations towards all Sudanese and the international community. The European Union also calls on the other parties to the conflicts to fully comply with their international obligations. The European Union joins the Security Council in deploring the recent ceasefire violations and stresses the urgency of ending the climate of impunity in Darfur by bringing to justice those responsible, including members of the popular defence forces and Janjaweed militia.

The European Union also welcomes the Council's preparedness to consider taking additional measures as contemplated in Article 41 of the Charter of the United Nations, should the Government of Sudan fail to comply fully with either resolution 1556 (2004) or resolution 1564 (2004).

The European Union attaches great importance to the establishment of an international commission of inquiry to immediately investigate all reports of violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law in Darfur by all parties, to determine whether acts of genocide have occurred and to identify the perpetrators of such violations with a view to having them brought to justice.

The leadership of the African Union (AU) in the solution of the conflict in Darfur is fully recognized by the European Union. The EU will continue to provide the AU with full support for its mission in Darfur.

The European Union recognizes the need for continued humanitarian assistance and will sustain its contributions in support of those affected by the conflict in Darfur.

The European Union recalls its Council conclusions of 12 and 26 July and of 13 September 2004, and confirms its full commitment to contribute to the solution of the conflicts in Sudan as a matter of great priority.

The candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia,[a] the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

[a] Croatia continues to be part of the Stabilization and Association Process.

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Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Somalia

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to the statement of the President of the Security Council of 31 October 2001 (S/PRST/2001/30). The report provides an update on developments in and related to Somalia since my last report of 9 June 2004 (S/2004/469). The main focus of the report is the progress achieved at the Somali National Reconciliation Conference at Mbagathi, Somalia, under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), with Kenya as Chairman. The report also provides an update on developments inside Somalia, the security situation and the humanitarian and development activities of United Nations programmes and agencies.

II. Somali National Reconciliation Conference

2. At the end of June 2004, owing to controversies regarding the method of selection of members of the transitional federal parliament, many Somali leaders absented themselves from the Somali National Reconciliation Conference. However, concerted efforts by the member States of IGAD, especially their Ministers for Foreign Affairs, led to a gradual return of those leaders to the Conference in July. The Ministers also called for the early arrival of traditional leaders at the Conference site and for Somali political leaders to cooperate in the process of selecting the members of parliament. They warned that absent leaders would not be allowed to hold the peace process hostage and that punitive measures would be taken against those obstructing its completion.

3. Each Somali clan (Hawiye, Darod, Digil and Mirifle, Dir and the "Allied" clans) was requested to submit a list of names to form the Somali National Arbitration Committee and the collective leadership of the Conference, which is called the Presidium. Each clan was requested to submit a list of 61 members of parliament by 5 July, with the exception of the "Allied" clans which was asked to submit a list of 31 members of parliament.

4. On 8 July, I addressed the Somali delegates at the Conference. I reiterated the commitment of the United Nations to support the outcome of the Conference, but underlined that the ultimate responsibility for achieving an all-inclusive government and making it work rested on Somali shoulders. I urged the delegates to make every

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effort to achieve the goal set by the Ministers of the member States of IGAD for the Conference and to establish an inclusive governance structure as soon as possible.

5. The distribution of the seats allotted to the clans was a complex exercise. Negotiations on the number of seats to be allotted to each of the sub-clans proved challenging. However, the IGAD Ministers maintained regional cohesion, holding no fewer than six ministerial meetings in Nairobi over a period of five months. Their collective efforts and the sense of compromise among the Somali leaders helped to bring about a resolution to the problem, at times with the assistance of the Somali Arbitration Committee, made up of members from all of the clans.

6. At the tenth IGAD Ministerial Facilitation Committee meeting, held in Nairobi on 21 and 22 August, the Ministers focused mainly on facilitating the selection of Somali members of parliament. They also discussed the report of a 14-member team from the African Union (AU) that visited Somalia from 7 to 17 August. The team visited Bardera, Garbaharey, Baidoa, Beletwein, Kismayo, Bu'ale, Mogadishu, Jowhar, Galkayo and Garowe.

7. On 22 August, 194 members of the Transitional Federal Parliament were sworn into office in a ceremony presided over by the Kenyan Minister for East African and Regional Cooperation and the Chairman of the IGAD Ministerial Facilitation Committee at the United Nations Office at Nairobi. Differences within the Harti sub-clan (Darod) over their choice were resolved after the intervention of the Kenyan President, Mwai Kibaki, and international observers. On 29 August, an additional 66 members of parliament were sworn in in the presence of the Kenyan Vice-President, who declared the Parliament formally inaugurated. Subsequently, contestation over the remaining seats was also resolved. As of mid-September, 268 out of a total of 275 members of parliament had been sworn in, leaving seven members, who, for reasons of ill health or logistical problems, were prevented from travelling to Nairobi to be sworn in.

8. On 2 September, the Parliament held its first meeting in Nairobi. Farah Hirsi Bulhan, 83 years old and the eldest Somali member of parliament, was chosen as the interim speaker. A parliamentary agenda was issued and five of the remaining members of parliament were sworn in. At its third meeting, on 7 September, the members endorsed the rules of procedure and agreed that the speaker and other principal officials would be elected on 15 September.

9. On 15 September, IGAD Ministers and international observers witnessed the election of Sharif Hassan Sheikh Aden as speaker of the Parliament, with 161 votes. Elected from a field of 11 candidates, he was chosen ahead of Sheikh Aden Mohamed Nur, who obtained 105 votes. Two hundred and sixty-six out of the 275 members of parliament participated in the voting. They decided to postpone the election of a transitional president until 10 October, so that candidates could have enough time to campaign.

10. At two press conferences, on 17 August and 12 September, a group of Somali women participating in the Conference underlined the failure of the sub-clans to select the requisite quota of women members of parliament. Despite the efforts of international observers, including my Representative and the staff of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia, only 23 women members of parliament were sworn in. This falls far short of the agreed 12 per cent, or 33 of the total number of 275 seats, which should have been filled by women, as stipulated by the transitional

federal charter. The problem of respecting the terms of the charter and realizing gender inclusiveness remain an outstanding issue confronting the new parliament.

11. To raise the level of inclusiveness at the Conference, and to gain support for its outcome, a dialogue with the Somali business community was held in Djibouti on 21 and 22 July under the auspices of President Ismail Omar Guelleh. President Guelleh, the Djibouti Minister for Foreign Affairs and ministers from Ethiopia and Kenya as well as staff of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia urged the prominent Somali businessmen and women to support the peace process. Thirty-six of them signed a statement committing themselves to financially support the Conference and its outcome.

12. The absence of General Mohamed Hersi "Morgan" from the Conference and reports that he was planning a military attack on Kismayo caused concern among the civilian population of the region. General "Morgan" had been reported to be gathering his militia with the intention of attacking the Juba Valley Alliance (JVA), which had ousted him from Kismayo in 1999. The leader of JVA, Colonel Barre Hirale, now a Member of the transitional federal parliament, left the Conference and returned to Kismayo. On 27 July, the Kenyan Special Envoy and Conference Chairman, Bethuel Kiplagat, issued a press release on behalf of the IGAD Facilitation Committee, calling upon regional countries to apply targeted sanctions on General "Morgan" by, inter alia, denying him entry to any IGAD member State. Although General "Morgan" announced his intention to return to the Conference, on 14 September, he made his return conditional on Colonel Barre Hirale not attacking his militia, who, he said, were in defensive positions (see para. 24 below).

13. The question of "Somaliland" still remains a contentious issue for the future. "President" Dahir Riyale Kahin of the "Republic of Somaliland" issued a press release on 7 July, stating, "The international community is to be forewarned that any attempt to resurrect the former Somali Union would only trigger a new cycle of armed confrontation and civil war that would engulf the entire Horn of Africa region". He also stated: "The government of Somaliland noted with satisfaction numerous pronouncements from the international community, stating that the current conference, which is being held in Kenya solely to reconcile the Southern warring factions, is to be followed by the formation of a government for Somalia that would then enter into dialogue with the government of Somaliland."

III. Activities of the United Nations and the international community

14. During the period under review, in anticipation of the establishment of a transitional federal government and institutions in Somalia, my Representative held consultations with government officials in Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia and Uganda. From 16 to 20 June, he met the President of Djibouti, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt and the Prime Minister of Ethiopia. All of these leaders expressed full support for the IGAD peace process for Somalia, including its outcome. Officials of the League of Arab States and the African Union also stated their readiness to support the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Somalia and the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration of militias. On 21 July, my representative held talks with President Museveni, in his capacity as IGAD Chairman, in Kampala on the prospects of the IGAD-led peace process. On

11 August, he met the Chairman of the African Union, President Obasanjo, in Abuja to discuss the role of the African Union in supporting the Somali peace process. In addition to his visits to London, Paris and Washington, D.C. in February and March 2004, my Representative also visited Moscow to consult with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on 13 September. At these meetings, he was assured of the support of these Member States for a durable solution to the Somali problem.

15. At the initiative of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia, and as part of the International Peace Day 2003, the Spanish soccer club, Real Madrid gave scholarships to four young Somalis for a two-week summer camp in Madrid. The four young soccer players, who hailed from Hargeisa, Merca and Mogadishu, were selected following tournaments "Peace Cup" involving 384 youngsters from 24 soccer teams in different parts of Somalia over a month-long period. The United Nations Political Office for Somalia, the United Nations country team and private sector support facilitated the travel of the four young Somalis to the Real Madrid summer camp for two weeks in July 2004. The selected youngsters returned to Nairobi on 5 August after which, during press conferences both in Nairobi and in Somalia, they stated their intention to continue with the theme of International Peace Day and to serve as peace ambassadors.

16. In the meantime, the United Nations Political Office for Somalia, the United Nations country team and donors have continued their efforts to develop draft plans for supporting the future transitional federal government and institutions in Somalia in the post-Conference period. The United Nations Political Office for Somalia hosted a meeting on 10 June to discuss the peace-building challenges that the new government would face. As a result, four draft documents are being developed, including: a protocol agreement that provides a framework of cooperation on political and diplomatic matters; and a rapid assistance programme to support the transitional federal institutions in the first 6 to 12 months after the Conference. A five-year reconstruction and development programme to address the humanitarian transition to recovery and development is also being developed. Discussion is also ongoing on a framework document to outline possible coordination mechanisms between the transitional federal government and the international community. Coordination on this support framework is expected to be discussed further at a meeting in Stockholm on 29 October. The European Commission sponsored a workshop on reconciliation for Somali stakeholders in the peace process from 21 to 24 September in Naivasha, Kenya.

IV. Developments inside Somalia

Security

17. The security situation in Somalia remains precarious although relative peace has prevailed in "Somaliland". Occasional tension erupted in "Puntland" and outbreaks of inter- and intra-clan fighting have persisted in the central and southern parts of the country, including in Mogadishu.

18. The IGAD-led peace process has yet to have much impact on the levels of insecurity in Somalia. Most observers agree that it is unlikely to have a positive effect for some months to come. This assessment is based on the observation that

much of the insecurity stems from crime, delinquency, clashes between rival militias for control of the highways, ports and airports and other resources at the local level.

19. In Beletwein in the Hiraan region, in the dispute among the Galjeel that flared up again in July, several people were killed, in spite of an earlier accord.

20. The emergence of an administration in Merca has provided a degree of stability in the town, although on 20 July a letter was sent to the United Nations warning that the Merca airstrip should not be opened. The letter apparently came from the Bimaal Resistance Movement, which is opposed to the administration. Violence still affects other parts of the lower Shabbelle region. On 28 July, some 13 people were killed in Brava following an argument between pastoralists and farmers about the use of water. On 16 August, 15 people were killed in another dispute between farmers and pastoralists near Afgoi.

21. The conflict within the Rahanwein Resistance Army around Baidoa seems to have abated, although, the main Rahanwein clans continue to maintain militias in Baidoa. An administration has not been formed and the town and the rest of the Bay and Bakool regions do not have any form of government. Several conflicts were reported among other Rahanwein clans, triggered by disputes over resources. Examples include a violent confrontation over the charcoal trade in south-east Bakool and a land dispute that claimed several lives around the town of Dinsor. Another confrontation over control of a small village north-east of Dinsor in the Bay region resulted in the deaths of 17 people during the month of August.

22. The long-running conflict among the Marehan in northern Gedo continues, albeit at a low level of intensity. There have been several meetings among the various groups but without any real resolution to the problem, which centres on control of the border town of Belethawa. Access by humanitarian agencies to this area has been limited.

23. Sporadic violence has affected Kismayo and much of the lower Juba valley. In Jilib, the long-running conflict between the Sheikhal and the Habr Gedir has claimed many lives. On 31 August, 12 Habr Gedir gunmen (Hawiye), who were part of JVA were killed by an anti-tank mine apparently laid by the Sheikhal.

24. In late August, General "Morgan" and some 500 militia reportedly moved from their base at El Berde in north Bakool to the lower Juba region, causing concern that they were aiming at capturing Kismayo. On 15 September, Barre Hirale and his JVA militia attacked General "Morgan" some 70 kilometres outside of Kismayo. Both sides suffered casualties. Reports indicated that General "Morgan" and his militia repositioned themselves between Dodoble and Afmadow in the lower Juba region. General "Morgan" subsequently surrendered to Kenyan authorities at the Amuma border point on 24 September, and was transported to Nairobi. He has stated that he had returned to take part in the IGAD-led peace process, but he would not stand for the presidency of the transitional federal government.

25. Violence continues to blight the lives of far too many people in Mogadishu. The situation in the north of the city remains difficult, despite the end of hostilities in early June between Abgal militias loyal to Musa Sudi and his rival, Mohammed Dheere. Although, there have been no major clashes in the city since then, militias loyal to the Sharia courts have been involved in several minor clashes. In one case on 28 July, they are reported to have tortured two Somali journalists accused of filming them without permission.

26. In general, areas in the north of the country offer a more secure environment for aid operations than parts of the south where continuing instability poses greater challenges. This is far from saying, however, that the north is secure. In June, "Somaliland" authorities are reported to have arrested several members of militant groups in Burao who were alleged to be carrying explosives. Such groups, also reportedly based in Mogadishu, are believed to oppose international activity in Somalia, including the deployment of foreign troops, even as observers.

27. The dispute over control of Sanaag and Sool between "Somaliland" and "Puntland" also continues. Troops from both sides are still deployed in the region and this complicates the delivery of humanitarian aid to the region, which has been seriously affected by drought. Disputes related to land and governance issues in Bossasso have occasionally led to violence as well as to the murder of several people, including the mayor and other officials, on 28 June, and the son of a "Puntland" minister on 22 July. Tensions increased on 21 June when the "Puntland parliament" suspended the "government" of Colonel Abdullahi Yusuf, as its mandate had expired. However, Colonel Yusuf appointed a new "government" within a month. Occasional incidents related to unpaid salaries have also affected the area.

28. Disputes over resources also continue among the clans in Galgudud region. The lack of control by local authorities is illustrated by an incident on 8 September in which shots were fired at senior United Nations officials when they crossed a checkpoint between sub-clan areas while carrying out an assessment.

V. Humanitarian situation

29. The cumulative effect of four years of drought in the Sool Plateau in northern Somalia has caused massive livestock losses among the pastoralists who make up the economic backbone of the area. This has resulted in the decimation of livelihoods, indebtedness and a general stagnation of the economy. The *gu* rains (April to July) were also scanty, extending the drought into southern "Puntland" and the central regions of Mudug and Galgaduud. Furthermore, the crop-producing regions of Gedo, lower Juba Valley and parts of Bakool in southern Somalia also had poor rainfall and harvests of only 20 per cent of the post-war average.

30. An inter-agency assessment of food, nutrition and livelihood security carried out in these areas during August concluded that some 667,000 people are in need of immediate assistance. Of that number, 261,000 are categorized as facing a humanitarian emergency and more than 355,000 are considered to be facing a livelihood crisis. The latter are likely to fall into the humanitarian emergency category if external assistance is not provided.

31. United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have expanded their humanitarian operations into the newly drought-affected areas. The response includes: food relief, mobile health services and supplementary feeding, rehabilitation of water resources, veterinary services and cash-for-work projects. To date, donor response has been limited and sizeable new commitments are required to address the expanding drought situation in Somalia.

32. The situation in the lower Juba Valley is of particular concern as a second harvest failure has led to high malnutrition rates among the Bantu clans. These

communities have little recourse to alternative incomes or food and rely entirely on international assistance for survival. The current conflict between forces loyal to General "Morgan" and JVA has, as mentioned earlier (see paras. 12 and 24 above), adversely affected humanitarian operations. Several international and local staff were evacuated from the area and access is severely limited. Some 165,800 people are directly affected in the region, and there is mounting concern that famine conditions will develop if the conflict continues. Some displacement has resulted from the fighting in the Badhade area and there are reports of civilians crossing the border into Kenya.

33. The Zayed Foundation for Charitable and Humanitarian Activities, based in the United Arab Emirates, has donated $2 million United States dollars for the improvement of the water supply in Somalia, which will address the immediate water needs for vulnerable groups, including returnees, internally displaced persons and pastoral populations in drought-stricken regions.

34. The sixth annual primary school survey for Somalia has been completed and will be published in October. The key findings of the survey indicate a slight increase of 5.3 per cent in the number of operational schools, and an increase of 5.7 per cent in enrolment, bringing the estimated gross enrolment rate to 19.9 per cent (25.5 per cent for boys and 14.3 per cent for girls). The report also indicates that girls continue to comprise only 36 per cent of total enrolment. Somalia continues to have one of the lowest school enrolment rates in the world.

35. There are few efforts currently under way in Somalia that provide psychosocial care and support to marginalized and vulnerable children or to child-victims of violence, abuse and exploitation. A child rights network has been established in Baidoa, composed of key stakeholders in the field of human rights, education, youth and HIV/AIDS. The network aims to support civil society efforts to carry out activities and advocacy initiatives to protect children. Similar child protection networks have met regularly in the Bari, Nugal, Mudug, Benadir, Lower Shabelle and Hiran regions, as well as in Hargeisa, and are undertaking specific activities to protect vulnerable and marginalized children.

36. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has repatriated a total of 9,222 Somali refugees (1,846 families) from Ethiopia and Djibouti to northern Somalia. As a result, the refugee camp of Hartisheikh, Ethiopia, was officially closed in June.

VI. Operational activities in support of peace

37. The United Nations has begun facilitating the transfer of expertise to Somalia from the Somali diaspora through the Qualified Expatriate Somali Technical Support (QUESTS) project. The project is a modified version of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) global initiative, Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN), which encourages expatriate nationals to volunteer their expertise in the service of their homelands for short periods of time.

38. In its initial stages, the Somali project will focus on priority sectors identified by the Somali authorities and local and international humanitarian organizations in health, education and agriculture. Eligible Somali institutions in these sectors will identify immediate, short-term needs that a diaspora professional could assist them

with. Depending on funds, UNDP will support the institutions by paying the travel and living expenses required to support the individual. By supporting 10 to 15 institutions annually, UNDP aims to address three important issues, including: the reversal of the "brain drain"; support for lasting peace in Somalia; and increased participation of the Somali diaspora in the creation of a conducive environment for sustainable human resources development in the country.

39. One of the priorities stipulated in the World Bank's country re-engagement note for Somalia is the creation of an enabling environment for the livestock and meat industry. In partnership with the United Nations, phase 1 included the setting up of livestock boards in "Somaliland", "Puntland" and the Mogadishu/Benadir zones to serve as umbrella organizations providing the endorsement of health certification demanded by both importing countries and the international organizations that set and monitor livestock standards globally.

40. The boards would provide guidelines on standardization and harmonization across the region and ensure the health, quality and certification of livestock from the Horn of Africa as well as the revival and enhancement of the livelihoods of those involved in the livestock sector.

41. Livestock is one of Somalia's principal exports and the country has been severely affected by the ban on Somali livestock imports to Gulf States in 2000 following claims that animals from the region were infected with Rift Valley fever.

42. A process of gathering information known as territorial diagnosis and institutional mapping is being developed in some parts of Somalia by the United Nations. The process identifies plans and provides for subsequent implementation of leveraged and targeted follow-up of local economic development interventions for quick-starting economic opportunities and strengthening local capacities. The United Nations undertook the first exercise of this kind in "Somaliland", focusing on four locations in the Awdal region, Abdikadir, Harirad, Garbodadar and Gerisa, and is currently studying other regions of "Somaliland".

43. Based on the results of the diagnosis and mapping exercise, UNDP has also completed operational community markets in Harirad and Abdulkaadir, both in Awdal region. As such exercises are finalized for the rest of "Somaliland" and "Puntland", further microcredit activities will be supported by United Nations agencies.

44. Demand for local honey continues to exceed supply, keeping prices high. As a result, UNDP and the International Labour Organization (ILO) have extended microcredit facilities to women in the Awdal region who are engaged in beekeeping and honey hunting as a means to improve their livelihood.

45. The United Nations has launched the support for a public administration training project, which will seek to make the Somali civil service more effective in delivering services to the general public. A key component of the project is a comprehensive training needs assessment of the civil service, which was carried out, with UNDP support, in late 2003, by a team drawn from both the Civil Service Commission of "Somaliland" and private institutions.

46. Initially, the project will support the establishment of a public training institute in Hargeisa to upgrade the professional skills of a wide range of managers and administrative and clerical staff from the "Somaliland" administration. This

institute, one of the first public-private partnerships of its kind in Somalia, will be jointly run by the "Somaliland" Civil Service Commission and Hargeisa University, with UNDP support. The support for public administration training project will also investigate ways to assist the Commission in carrying out the various institutional reforms it has identified as priorities for the civil service and will contribute to the expansion and increasing professionalism of the education and training services offered by the University.

47. In the medium-term, the support for public administration training project will aim to use the expertise and skills developed during this first phase of the project to enhance the skills and consolidate the position of the transitional federal government to be formed at the Somalia National Reconciliation Conference.

48. UNDP, through its governance and financial services programme in Somalia, and working in collaboration with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, is supporting urban sector improvement and city planning in Hargeisa. The project includes capacity-building in land management and administration and the rehabilitation of municipal infrastructure. The city charters for Hargeisa and Garowe have been prepared and work on a Hargeisa base map and the Hargeisa land survey have been completed. An assessment for the rehabilitation of the Borama municipal building has also been completed.

49. The United Nations is supporting capacity-building in governance. Thirty-seven parliamentarians have received scholarships to study law and business at Hargeisa University. Nine women leaders from "Somaliland" went on a study tour to Uganda to observe parliamentary proceedings, the role of women in decision-making and accountability measures in governance structures. Thirteen male leaders from the House of Elders (*Guurti*) went on a study tour to South Africa to observe the role of traditional leaders in government. Three workshops were held in 2004, to involve the Somali business community in the Somali peace process. The business community has supported the peace process and plans to establish a Somali Chamber of Commerce and Industry to strengthen the private sector in Somalia.

50. To contribute to the establishment of a non-gender biased justice system, six women have been awarded scholarships to attend the Faculty of Law at Hargeisa University. The six were selected by a task force composed of representatives from the "Somaliland" ministries of justice and education, civil society, the "Somaliland" Lawyers Association, UNDP and Hargeisa University.

51. There are only very few parts of Somalia that satisfy the preconditions for the preparation of demobilization activities. Significant progress was made in north-eastern Somalia, with the agreement of "Puntland" authorities, on the registration of security personnel in preparation of a transparent payroll system. This is an integral part of the preparatory project for expanded demobilization activities in the near future.

52. A pilot demobilization project, involving 300 participants, 150 active militia, 75 women and 75 men, was carried out jointly between the United Nations and a local NGO in six marginalized districts in Mogadishu from July 2003 to August 2004. At the outset, the programme collected one weapon from each participant, followed by three months of literacy, numerical, health and civics education. The participants then received four months of vocational (skills) training. Towards the

end of the project, the United Nations and the participants conducted the symbolic destruction of weapons handed in during the programme.

VII. Observations

53. The progress witnessed in recent weeks at the Somali National Reconciliation Conference is commendable. I am grateful for the efforts of the member States of IGAD, under the leadership of Kenya, in assisting Somalis to reach the necessary agreements necessary for the re-establishment of peace and stability in the country. I urge Somali leaders to seize this opportunity to complete the process by electing a transitional president and to support in good faith the new transitional federal government that is to be formed. International support can only do so much. Somalis themselves must show seriousness if they are to re-establish peace and stability in their country.

54. The financial assistance and political support of the European Union to the Conference has been invaluable during the arduous two-year long process. I also express my appreciation to the African Union and the League of Arab States for their efforts and plans to support the establishment of peace and security in Somalia. The readiness of the African Union to deploy monitors to Somalia is a welcome initiative. The international community should support the mission of the African Union, including its disarmament, demobilization and reintegration aspects.

55. I welcome the planning efforts that are under way in Nairobi, involving the United Nations Political Office for Somalia, the United Nations country team, the Somalia Aid Coordination Body, the European Commission, the League of Arab States and others, to come up with a peace-building framework, as envisaged in the statements of the President of the Security Council of 31 October 2001 (S/PRST/2001/30) and 25 February 2004 (S/PRST/2004/3). These efforts are expected to lead to the formulation of a "rapid assistance package".

56. The funding and implementation of such a "rapid assistance package" will be of critical importance for the Somali transitional federal government, which must establish itself and start extending its authority throughout the country. I urge the international community to support the package generously and expeditiously.

57. At this stage of progress in the Somali peace process, there will likely be a call for an expanded peace-building role and presence for the United Nations, in order that it may assist the Somali parties in implementing their agreement. At the same time, it is clear that any enhanced role for the Organization in Somalia must be incremental, and should be based on the outcome of discussions with the new government. Pending my recommendations in this regard and the decisions by the Council, I propose that the resources available to the United Nations Political Office for Somalia for 2004-2005 be maintained at the current level. At this critical stage in the peace process, I can only reiterate the crucial importance of progress in the political arena being accompanied by serious efforts on the part of Somali leaders to bring about tangible improvement in the security situation on the ground. Such efforts would do much to ensure that the political agreement and the government formed on its basis receive the full support of the people of Somalia and the international community.

58. To the international community, I appeal for generous support to the Somali people at this critical juncture in their history, when they are making efforts to emerge from their long period of crisis and re-establish peace and stability.

59. The revised 2004 Inter-Agency Consolidated Appeal for Somalia calls for a total of $118 million. Despite the scale of humanitarian need in Somalia, funds received from donors continue to be limited. In 2004, both United Nations agencies and NGOs have observed a decline in funds from some key donors available for humanitarian response. While access and security continue to impose constraints on a comprehensive humanitarian response in some areas, aid agencies in Somalia have long operated under difficult circumstances to save lives and build local capacities, and they are determined to continue to do so, provided they have the resources. I again call for contributions to the revised Consolidated Appeal for Somalia commensurate with its need. Following earlier contributions to United Nations Trust Fund for Peace-Building in Somalia by Ireland ($34,668.65), Italy ($536,150.00), and Norway ($836,533.39), I am pleased to report that Italy has made an additional generous contribution of $2,239,200, for which I am most grateful.

60. In conclusion, I would like to commend the efforts of my Representative for Somalia, Winston Tubman, the staff of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia and the United Nations country team as well as the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations engaged in Somalia for their humanitarian activities and their contribution to the international effort to help promote and support national reconciliation and peace in Somalia.